HEC Ranchi

822. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production in all the three plants of the Heavy Engineerings Corporation (HEC) in Ranchi was stopped since the 11th January, 1986 after the Bihar State Electricity Board disconnected power connection for non-payment of the electricity bills;

(b) if so, what are the details of the arrears and reasons for the non-payment; and

(c) what steps are being taken to clear the arrears and reopen the plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Power was disconnected for about 33 hours on 11th and 12th January, 1986 due to non-payment of current bill of November, 1985 and the production was only temporarily disrupted. November, 1985 bill has since been paid. The arrears claim of Bihar State Electricity Board as on 11-1-86 on HEC was Rs. 3.03 crores. As against this, HEC has little payments to make, since HEC's claim of Rs. 3 crores on Bihar State Electricity Board is under arbitration.

Voting age

823. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an exclusive study of electoral reforms conducted by Mr. L. P. Singh for the Centre for Policy Research has recommended reduction of voting age from 21 to 18 years; and

(b) if so, what are the details and other recommendations made by the study and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) It is understood that the Report done under the auspices of the Centre for Policy Research has recommended lowering of voting age to 18.

(b) It is not customary to comment on research work of authors done under the auspices of autonomous research institutions. The suggestions will, however, be kept in view while arriving at final decisions regarding electoral reforms.

Taking over of Rohtas Industries

824. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bihar State Government has asked the Central Government for according its approval for taking over of Rohtas Industries;

(b) if so, by when the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The State Government of Bihar have expressed their intention for nationalisation of Rohtas Industries Ltd. They have been advised to tie up the financial implications to enable Central Government to proceed further with their proposal for nationalisation of the undertaking of the company.